

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2021



**PROUD TO POWER  
OUR COMMUNITY  
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST**



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

**VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 6 p.m.  
Register at:  
[www.cwecoop.com/annual-meeting-2021](http://www.cwecoop.com/annual-meeting-2021)



# Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative • Rosholt, WI

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

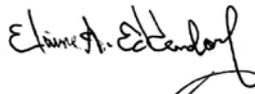
The annual meeting of the Members of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be held by virtual live streaming from the headquarters located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, Wisconsin on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:00 o'clock p.m. to consider and take action upon the following matters:

- I. Reports of Officers, Directors, Committee and Management.
- II. For all business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

In addition, a regular election will be held under the Bylaws to choose Directors from Districts 1 and 2.

In accordance with SECTION 6 of ARTICLE III, any member who is absent from any annual or special meeting of the members and who has filed a written request in advance for an absentee ballot may vote by absentee mail ballot upon any motion or resolution to be acted upon at any such meeting with respect to any action submitted pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, the Resolutions Committee or by petition of not less than ten percent (10%) for the members. A ballot, the envelope enclosing which is signed by the member, shall be deemed a signed ballot within the meaning of this section. The receipt of mail ballots at any such meeting shall not preclude the offer and adoption of germane amendments to any resolution to be acted upon at such meeting. The adoption or rejection of such amendments shall be determined by the majority vote of those members present and voting at such meeting. After the adoption of any such amendment – the adoption or rejection of the original resolution as amended shall be determined solely on the basis of the votes cast by members in attendance at such meeting.

Dated this 25th day of February 2021.



Elaine Eckendorff, SECRETARY

## MEETING RULES FOR 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

1. This year's meeting will be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised except as specifically modified by these special Rules of Order.
2. The 2021 annual meeting is being held virtually instead of in-person and members shall attend by electronic means.
3. Voting for directors was conducted only by mailed-in ballots; ballots for directors will not be cast during the annual meeting. Voting on all other matters, except those approved by unanimous consent, shall be by voting for or against using the electronic polling feature on the member's screen.
4. Members will not be able to offer comments or ask questions during the course of the meeting but are encouraged to contact the Cooperative's office after the meeting if they have any questions or comments.

## VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 27

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be hosting a virtual annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 6 p.m.

CWEC had hoped it would be able to return to its traditional in-person annual meeting in 2021, but due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the CWEC Board of Directors has chosen to hold a virtual annual meeting. The decision was made for the safety of CWEC members and employees.

In early April you will receive a piece of mail from CWEC, which contains information about the virtual annual meeting, including how to register for the meeting and how to log in. That information is also listed below.

The annual meeting is open to CWEC members only. Members can now register online at [www.cwecoop.com/annual-meeting-2021](http://www.cwecoop.com/annual-meeting-2021) to receive their invitation to the meeting. Your billing account number is required when you register.

Once you register, the following will happen:

- You will receive an email with a link to the meeting on April 27.
- You will use the link emailed to you to log into the meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27. We recommend logging in a few minutes before 6 p.m. so that you don't miss the opening remarks.
- Find all the meeting reports in the April 2021 *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* or on our website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION** – Two CWEC Board of Directors seats are up for election. Both incumbents for those positions, Anthony

Buss, Jr. in District 1 and Leonard Oppor in District 2, have decided to not run for reelection. Prior to the annual meeting, members in the districts that Buss and Oppor represent, will receive a director election mailing from CWEC with instruction on how to cast their vote. All ballots must be delivered to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP in Marshfield by the close of business on Monday, April 26, 2021.

The results for the two elections will be made public during the virtual annual meeting on April 27.

**DOOR PRIZES** – As in years past, members who attend the annual meeting will receive a bill credit toward their electric bill. To receive a \$10 bill credit, members must attend the virtual annual meeting by logging into the meeting via a computer, iPad, or iPhone.

Even though the annual meeting will be a virtual meeting, members who attend virtually will have an opportunity to win door prizes. One \$100 bill credit will be given away, as well as three \$50 bill credits, and 10 \$25 bill credits. To be eligible to win a door prize, members must be logged into the virtual meeting for the entire meeting. Members who win door prizes will be notified by CWEC. A list of door prize winners will be published in the next available issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* after the meeting.

If you have a question regarding the co-op that you would like answered during the meeting, email the question to: [askyourCEO@cwecoop.com](mailto:askyourCEO@cwecoop.com)



Anthony Buss, Jr.,  
Board Chairman

## 2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

This year, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will hold its 83rd annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27.

As we did in 2020, we will hold this meeting electronically so that you can attend from the safety of your home. It is our hope that we will be able to meet in person at our annual meeting next year.

2020 has been a year that we will never forget. The pandemic has impacted our lives in many ways and we yearn for life to return to normal. Unfortunately, we have yet to discover what the new normal will look like, but we are seeing promising signs that recovery is in sight. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, your cooperative adjusted to the changes and worked to complete the goals set by the board of directors.

- Our lobby was closed in the initial stages of the pandemic and many of our employees began working from home. Field crews limited their access to the office and social distancing became the norm.
- The board of directors cancelled in-person meetings and held their board meetings through teleconference.
- Our 2020 annual meeting was cancelled in April and we ultimately held a virtual annual meeting in August.

- We instituted a COVID-19 protocol that allowed our employees back in the office, but limited their access to one another so that employees could work safely.

Although the pandemic altered our normal routine, we are extremely proud of the accomplishments and milestones we reached.

The construction of the West Riverside Energy Center in Rock County, Wisconsin, was completed and we began receiving a capacity credit in proportion to our ownership level. The cooperative owns 5.5 MW (megawatts) of the Alliant Energy natural gas power plant and we have begun passing on savings to our consumer-members on each monthly electric bill. Our ownership stake of West Riverside will allow us to help control our wholesale power costs into the future.

In keeping with our cooperative principals, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$415,838. Capital credits represents each member's equity in the cooperative. They are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their purchases from the cooperative in previous years. In addition to our normal annual retirement, the board approved returning capital credits to the heirs of deceased members. As the cooperative is financially able, it

is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

I am pleased to report that we experienced zero lost-time accidents in 2020 and we have driven over 1 million miles without a vehicle accident. This milestone does not happen by chance and is evidence of the importance our employees place on safety. I thank our employees for doing their jobs safely and responsibly for the benefit of our consumer-members.

At our director election in August 2020, we welcomed Mike Schultz as a new addition to our board of directors. Mike previously served on our nominations committee and is getting up to speed on his new duties and responsibilities. In 2021, we will be electing new members to the board to replace myself and Leonard Oppor due to our retirement. I wish each of the new directors my best and I know they will do a great job on behalf of our membership.

Although the pandemic did not make our job an easy one, the cooperative focused on providing safe and reliable electric energy to our members and supporting our local communities. Our goal in 2021 is to continue to focus on the needs of our members and the communities in which they live. And I look forward to seeing you at our 83rd annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 6 p.m.



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held both in-person and via teleconference on January 28, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the December 31, 2020 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
  - The board reviewed Board Policy 101-Qualifications for Eligibility to Serve on the Board of Directors and the Addendum. Proposed changes will be provided to the Governance Committee for further review.
  - The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 101-Removal of a Director by the Board of Directors. Further review is needed and will be brought back to the board at a later date. The board approved proposed changes to Chapter 7.0 Construction Policy of the Service Rules and Regulations.
  - The board approved the WRIV credit that will be returned to the membership in the form of a power cost adjustment (PCA).
  - The board approved Brenda Mazemke as acting president/CEO for 2021 in the event of an extended absence of the president/CEO to serve temporarily until the Board of Directors takes appropriate action.
- The board approved the list of proposed 2021 donations from the Federated Youth Foundation Fund, along with those that qualify for the CoBank Sharing Success program.
  - The board was presented with the 2015-2019 KRTA ratios from CFC, comparing where our co-op falls within Wisconsin and the United States.
  - The board approved holding this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 as a virtual meeting.
  - The board approved allowing the Member Advisory Group (MAG) members to serve an additional year to their term due to the pandemic and the inability to meet.
  - The board approved increasing the monthly pole rental rate for outdoor lighting to \$1.50/month which is currently \$1.25/month.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported crews will be working for several months on hazard recognition of overhead line inspections.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower also reported she will serve on the NISC Advisory Committee for the next four years.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported she will be serving on the Youth Education Committee with WECA. The group is looking at ways to hold the Youth Leadership Congress in July virtually.

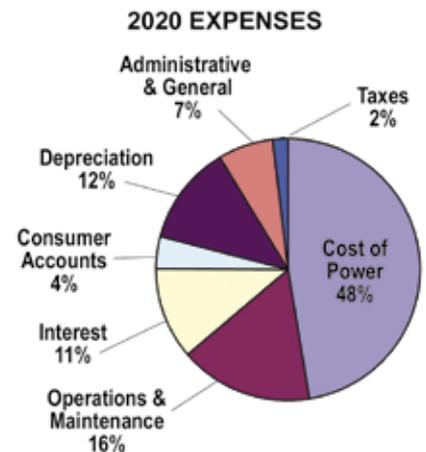
President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.



# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019

	<u>Unaudited 2020</u>	<u>Audited 2019</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>15,950,234</b>	<b>16,642,930</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Power Production Expense	(212,379)	-
Cost of Power	6,007,426	6,484,739
Transmission Expense – Operations	1,430,295	1,422,820
Distribution Expense – Operations	962,457	907,425
Distribution Expense – Maintenance	1,601,773	1,716,373
Consumer Accounts	559,192	552,921
Customer Service and Informational	233,749	204,963
Sales Expense	65,755	82,529
Administrative and General	1,058,966	1,144,195
Depreciation	1,929,134	1,976,106
Taxes	294,659	278,658
Other Deductions	49,538	55,118
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>13,980,565</u></b>	<b><u>14,825,847</u></b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>1,969,669</b>	<b>1,817,083</b>
INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT AND LINE OF CREDIT	<u>1,822,815</u>	<u>1,546,279</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>146,854</b>	<b>270,804</b>
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	<u>160,188</u>	<u>154,967</u>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b><u>307,042</u></b>	<b><u>425,771</u></b>
<b>NONOPERATING MARGINS</b>		
Interest and Dividend Income	168,538	190,337
Equity in Income of Subsidiary Companies	-	-
Other Nonoperating Income	<u>300,641</u>	<u>255,218</u>
<b>Total Nonoperating Margins</b>	<b><u>469,179</u></b>	<b><u>445,555</u></b>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b><u>\$776,221</u></b>	<b><u>\$871,326</u></b>
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$17,213,085</b>	<b>16,834,517</b>
Net Margins less Other Nonoperating Income (Loss)	523,380	616,108
Capital Credit Retirement	(416,339)	(324,726)
Other Equity Changes	54,208	87,186
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL – END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$17,374,334</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,213,085</u></b>



# BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2020 and 2019

	Unaudited 2020	Audited 2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>		
Plant in Service	67,403,028	59,625,693
Riverside Plant Assets Not In Service	94,212	-
Construction Work in Progress	487,855	1,175,339
Total	67,985,095	60,801,032
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(20,489,288)	(18,896,733)
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>47,495,807</b>	<b>41,904,299</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS</b>		
Investment in Associated Organizations	8,175,492	8,125,838
Other Investments	8,473	2,473
Notes Receivable, Net	878,685	963,585
Nonutility Property, Net	-	429,912
<b>Total Other Assets and Investments</b>	<b>9,062,650</b>	<b>9,521,808</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	672,835	993,818
Accounts Receivable, Net	2,043,630	2,122,286
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	197,225	206,133
Materials and Supplies Inventory	311,211	324,693
Other Current and Accrued Assets	176,785	164,389
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,401,686</b>	<b>3,811,319</b>
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>		
	<b>230,210</b>	<b>5,024,166</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$60,190,353</b>	<b>\$60,261,592</b>
	<b>Unaudited 2020</b>	<b>Audited 2019</b>
<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>EQUITIES</b>		
Patronage Capital	17,374,334	17,213,085
Other Equities	2,885,488	2,664,592
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>20,259,822</b>	<b>19,877,677</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT (Less Current Maturities)</b>	<b>33,961,297</b>	<b>36,051,496</b>
<b>OTHER NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accumulated Employee Benefits	40,029	69,357
<b>Total Other Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>40,029</b>	<b>69,357</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	1,475,000	1,342,000
Notes Payable - Line of Credit	2,215,966	1,245,000
Accounts Payable	1,371,565	824,203
Consumer Deposits	52,015	51,063
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	719,295	700,164
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>5,833,841</b>	<b>4,162,430</b>
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>		
	<b>95,364</b>	<b>100,632</b>
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$60,190,353</b>	<b>\$60,261,592</b>



# CENTRAL WISCONSIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ROSHOLT, WISCONSIN

## Annual Meeting Minutes • August 13, 2020

President and CEO Mike Wade welcomed the membership to the 82nd Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 6:00 p.m., which was being held virtually due to COVID-19. Mr. Wade began the meeting with a safety message, provided reminders to the membership of the new meeting format, and introduced the speakers.

Board Chairman Anthony Buss, Jr. called the 82nd Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to order. Elaine Eckendorf, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative, kept the minutes thereof. Director Buss began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, an invocation, and introduced the Board of Directors, giving special recognition to Director Ron Onesti reaching his 9-year term limit as Director-At Large.

Cooperative Attorney Drew Parrish of the law firm of Wheeler, Van Sickle and Anderson announced that in accordance with the Cooperative by-laws, sufficient members had registered and were logged into the meeting to constitute a quorum. Official registration counts totaled 242 registrants, with 156 logged in virtually in attendance. Mr. Parrish indicated the Rules of Order, the Notice of Meeting, and the Minutes of the 2019 meeting documents were available in the resources section of the program format for viewing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Lila Shower, VP of Accounting and Finance, gave the Treasurer's Report, focusing on key statistics and highlights from 2019. We had strong energy sales in 2019. Net margins came in at \$871,326, which is one of the best years in a long time. We retired \$324,675 in capital credits as approved by the Board of Directors in 2019.

Chairman Buss gave the Chairman's Report on the success of the Cooperative in 2019. Our co-op responded to a call for help from Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in Albert Lea, Minnesota during an early spring storm in 2019. Then in July of 2019, when storms wreaked havoc across central Wisconsin, we received help from six electric cooperatives and two contractors. This emphasizes the cooperative principal Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Mackenzie Yarbrough, Lineman for CWEC, traveled to Guatemala to extend electric service to the village of Tierra Blanca Chixoy through NRECA's International Program. Partnered with CoBank and their Sharing Success Program, we provided \$2,000 in donations to Rural Health Initiative, Wittenberg Fire Department and the Kronenwetter Fire Departments. Scholarships were provided to 53 students

totaling \$13,700 from the Operation Round Up Program. CWEC also provided six small business loans through the economic development revolving loan program.

Mr. Wade gave the CEO's Report on the successful programs the Cooperative has and thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to safety. We were the recipient of a corporate safety award from the Wisconsin Safety Council in 2019. We continue to provide electricity demonstrations to 4th graders in our elementary schools each year. We continue to keep vegetation management as a priority to keep our right-of-way cleared. In 2019, we purchased our first electric vehicle and installed a Level 2 charging station in front of the building for public use. The West Riverside Energy Center, which we are part owners of, neared completion in 2019, and more recently went into commercial operation.

Attorney Drew Parrish gave the results of the 2020 Director Election as follows:

District 1	Tom W. Smith	252 votes
District 3	Sue Rombalski	310 votes
Director-At-Large	Michael Schultz	569 votes
Director-At-Large	Gregory Loeser	370 votes

Elected to three-year terms were Tom W. Smith – District 1, Sue Rombalski – District 3 and Michael Schultz – Director-At-Large.

Director Buss entertained any new business. Attorney Drew Parrish entertained a motion to ratify the holding of the Cooperative's 2020 Annual Meeting by virtual means and after the deadline as specified in the bylaws. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution. Motion carried.

Director Buss thanked everyone for attending and reminded the membership that the drawing of door prizes would take place after the meeting and those winners would be notified by telephone or email. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried.

This concluded the 82nd meeting of the membership of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Elaine Eckendorf, SECRETARY/TREASURER

APPROVED:

Anthony Buss, Jr., CHAIRMAN

# MEET THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative members who live in District 1 and District 2 have the opportunity to elect a new director in April to represent them. Both Anthony Buss Jr. of District 1 and Leonard Oppor of District 2 have chosen to not run for re-election, so both districts will have a new director when the election is concluded.

In District 1, Ronald Onesti is the only candidate running in the election. In District 2, there are two candidates running—Greg Loeser and Louis Oppor. CWEC members in District 1 and District 2 will receive information on how to cast a ballot, as well as the official ballots, in the mail in early April.

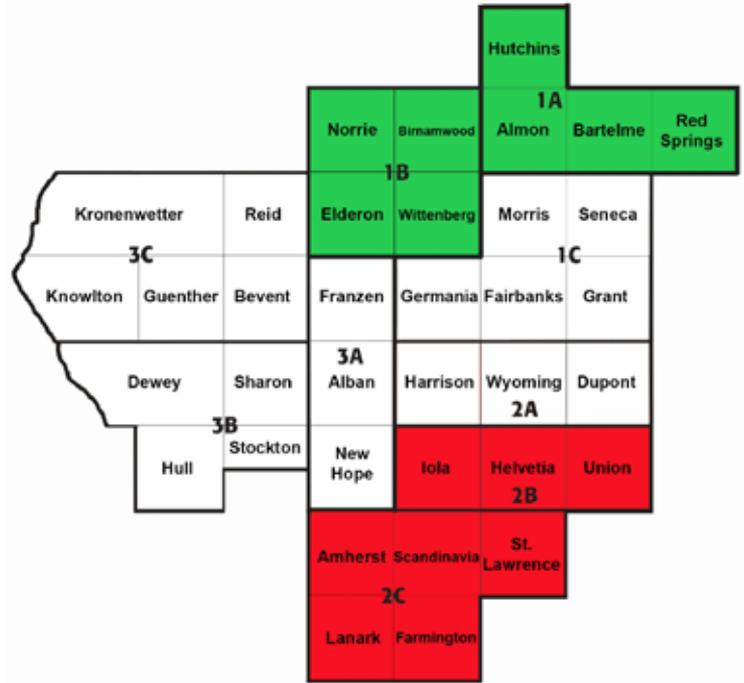
Below is information about the candidates.

## DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE



### Ronald Onesti Town of Almon

Ronald Onesti, a CWEC member has lived in Shawano County in the Township of Almon since 1969, with his wife of 51 years, Patricia. Ron previously served as a director for the cooperative for nine years. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Program certificates and has completed his gold status. He has farmed in the area all of his life. In 1998 he sold his cows and went into custom crop work and is semi-retired. Nine years ago, he sold part of his farm, but still custom crops his remaining land and is a seed salesperson for Legacy. He was Town Supervisor for 16 years. Ron enjoys working in the woods, bowling, woodworking, and spending time with his family, which includes three grandchildren.



## DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES



### Louis (Lou) Oppor Town of St. Lawrence

Louis (Lou) Oppor and his wife Michelle currently live in the Township of St. Lawrence, Waupaca County. Lou returned to his home county after spending 28 years working for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in Madison, WI as a Section Chief for the Wisconsin Division of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery where he managed some \$45 million in Statewide Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. During State service, he has secured over \$300 million of Federal assistance, which have been delivered to every county and tribe in the State of Wisconsin. Lou has received numerous State and National awards recognizing his contributions in promoting Behavioral Health. For the past 3 years, Lou has had the pleasure of participating on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative’s Member Advisory Committee. As a Board member of the Cooperative, Lou feels he can contribute by using his administrative skills to improve services to Cooperative members and ensure every member is receiving the most cost effective and quality services available.



### Gregory Loeser Town of Iola

Gregory Loeser has been a member of CWEC for 31 years and lives in the Town of Iola, Waupaca County. He served the community of Iola as the CEO of the former Iola Hospital and later Iola Living Assistance. He retired in 2017 after 28 years of service. His educational background includes a B.S. degree from UW–Milwaukee and a M.A. from Central Michigan University. Greg and his wife of 47 years, Gretchen, have two children Scott and Erin, a son-in-law Mike, and a grand dog Chunk. Greg is currently a member of the Hatch Lake Association and the Iola Lions. In addition to serving as Lions past president, he also served as the past president of the Iola Car Show Board, Iola Conservation Club, and the Waupaca Breakfast Rotary. Greg and his wife enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities, especially riding their ATVs.



# BRINGING THE LIGHT



One of the most visible employees of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative would be its linemen, who work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

CWEC's group of linemen – Chris Tuszke, Sam Walter, John Bestul, Quin Zdroik, Mack Yarbrough, Josh Wick and Nate Singer – provide a mix of experience, and strive to keep electricity flowing to our members.

Since he grew up around linemen, Yarbrough said being a lineman was all he ever wanted to do.

Zdroik said he knew he wanted to be a lineman after he saw the cooperation that a lineman crew has to have to complete the many tasks required of the job.

"I wanted to become a lineman to be a part of that team," Zdroik said.

When Walter was a senior in high school, he said he wasn't sure what career path he wanted to pursue, and was leaning toward going to school to become a diesel mechanic. That all changed after a conversation with his dad, who had been an electrical distribution lineman. His dad asked him if he ever considered pursuing that as a career.

"He dug out his old belt and hooks and let me try them out on a wood pole behind the house. I was hooked," Walter said. "The next week I signed up for the electrical power distribution program at NUTC."

Bestul also received career advice from a relative, in his case, his grandpa, who had worked at CWEC as a brusher.

"I kept getting laid off while building houses and he told me this may be a job I would enjoy," Bestul said. "And the job was a solid career with great benefits and room for advancement."

For both Singer and Wick, who are currently apprentice linemen with CWEC, both knew they wanted to become linemen after working at CWEC as summer help, and seeing how

the CWEC linemen worked together.

"I fell in love with the work and shadowing the linemen, learning the ins and outs on a daily basis," Singer said. "Keeping the lights on for everyone in all communities we serve was a real enjoyment at a young age."

The summer Wick worked at CWEC to do everyday maintenance around the shop, two big storms blew through the CWEC service area.

"I was able to tag along with the linemen and assist them in restoring power to members," Wick said. "After helping the linemen out and seeing what the job entailed, I knew it was the right choice for me."

When asked what satisfaction they receive by being a

lineman at CWEC the number one response was helping to provide reliable electricity to all CWEC members. This includes restoring power, as well as constructing and maintaining infrastructure to help prevent outages.

"This line of work is very satisfying when restoring power outages because everyone

knows how it feels when power goes out, then the overwhelming relief when it comes back on," Walter said.

Zdroik added, "Not much beats restoring power to members after outages."

While they don't do the job for accolades, they do appreciate meeting members, as well as receiving feedback from members.

"The gratitude and thanks we receive as linemen when restoring power is very satisfying," Walter said.

Zdroik added, "'Jobs well done' are my favorite part of being a lineman, only second to meeting our members along the way."

"Nothing beats a smile or a wave from someone after you help restore power to their home," Wick said.

We thank the CWEC lineworkers for all they do.

**Lineworkers bring power to the people!**  
Don't forget to Thank A Lineworker on April 12 for Lineworker Appreciation Day.

## Thank a Lineman For all of his hard work!

Our linemen endure some pretty tough weather conditions to restore your power, but that doesn't stop them from restoring your power during an outage.

We celebrate our linemen who put their lives at risk to keep the power flowing through our communities. Thank you!

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Jason Walter   | Mackenzie   |
| Chris Tuszke   | Yarbrough   |
| Quinton Zdroik | Josh Wick   |
| Nate Singer    | John Bestul |





Mama's House of Hope



Scandinavia Fire Department

## WITH HELP OF CWEC MEMBERS, OPERATION ROUND UP KEEPS GIVING

In 2020 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program approved 29 grant applications for a total of \$12,125 in various types of community support. This is in addition to the \$12,450 in scholarships it awarded to area students pursuing a secondary education.

Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month. Electric bills are simply "rounded up" to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly "round up" could be as little as a single penny, but never more than ninety-nine cents. The

average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.

Recent beneficiaries of Operation Round Up donations include:

- Tigerton Elementary School – \$500
- Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Department – \$1,000
- Mama's House of Hope – \$500
- Iola River Road Community Garden – \$150
- The Helping Foundation – \$250
- Toys for Tots – \$500

- Wittenberg Food Pantry – \$250
- Iola Food Pantry – \$250
- Scandinavia Food Pantry – \$250
- Manawa Food Pantry – \$250
- Rosholt Food Pantry – \$250
- TULP/Bowler Food Pantry – \$250
- Tigerton Community Cupboard – \$250
- TRACK Tomorrow River Food Pantry – \$250
- Marion Food Pantry – \$250
- Tigerton Food Pantry – St. Anthony's Church – \$250
- North New Hope Sunday School – \$200

To date Operation Round Up has donated almost \$550,000 to families in need, charitable organizations, and students in the form of scholarships.

Thank you for your generous support.



Tigerton Food Pantry



Scandinavia Food Pantry



Rosholt Food Pantry



## SHOP LOCAL YEAR-ROUND PAGE ADDED TO CWEC WEBSITE

To help promote the many great small businesses that are located in the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's service area we have added a Shop Local Year-Round section to the CWEC website.

One of the things highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic was the need for area communities to support the businesses in the surrounding area. With the introduction of the Shop Local Year-Round page, we hope to cast a spotlight on these area businesses that have been anchored in area communities, but faced uncertain times during the pandemic.

By sharing information about what goods and services these businesses provide, and the history behind them, we hope to bring awareness to these businesses. Even though an area business may have been around for a while, not everyone may know about the business. We hope to change that.

Information about local businesses will be added periodically to the website.

"Local businesses are owned and

operated by our neighbors. When you shop local, you're making a personal investment in your neighborhood and community," said Brenda Mazemke, manager of member relations for CWEC. "Local businesses often purchase from other area businesses, and are more accountable to their communities and donate back to their local communities."

In addition to providing information about local businesses, we have



also added an "Upcoming Community Events" page to the website. This page will be accessible from the Shop Local Year-Round page, and will include a list of upcoming community events.

Events will be able to be submitted online at: [www.cwecoop.com/shop-local-year-round](http://www.cwecoop.com/shop-local-year-round). Events can also be submitted by emailing event information to [Bert.Lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:Bert.Lehman@cwecoop.com).

## DON'T LET YOUR ACCOUNT FALL BEHIND

As we, and the nation, continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic we understand that the pandemic has had a financial impact on many of our members.

Throughout the pandemic, CWEC has taken steps to help ease the financial stress of our members regarding their monthly electric bill. Early in the pandemic we did not do disconnects and we waived late fees for non-payment. While we took those steps, we encouraged members to continue to pay as much of their electric bill as they could so they wouldn't fall too far behind.

With spring upon us, and positive news regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, we want to remind all our members that it is important to get up-to-date on their electric account with CWEC. If you are still experiencing financial hardship because of the pandemic, please call our office at 800-377-2932 to discuss setting up a payment plan.

### Payment Methods Options

While we love seeing our members in person, we understand that because of COVID-19, some members may feel uncomfortable coming to our office. Please visit our website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) for a list of all the options we have for members to pay their electric bill without coming to the office.



10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

[www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

**Mike Wade, President & CEO**  
**Bert Lehman, Editor**

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715-701-2053

### Our Mission

**We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.**



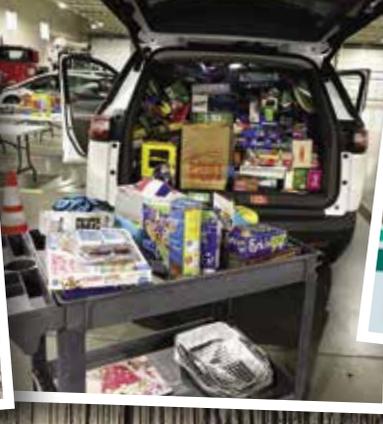
**BUILT** by our community.  
**SHAPED** by our community.  
**LED** by our community.

**WE'RE PROUD TO  
 POWER YOUR LIFE.**

## CWEC OPERATING PERSONNEL

Mike Wade – President & CEO  
 Lila Shower – Vice President  
 Accounting & Finance  
 Kevin Kurtzweil – Vice President  
 of Operations  
 Dennis Magee – Line Manager  
 Brenda Mazemke – Manager of  
 Member Relations

John Bestul	Gabriel Pospyhalla
Stacy Claussen	Nate Singer
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**SNAPSHOTS OF 2020**  
*Commitment to Community*



Central Wisconsin  
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 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

